

1508/340.
A MOST CIRCUMSTANTIAL

ACCOUNT

Of that unfortunate Young LADY

Miss BELL, otherwise SHARPE,

Who died at MARYBONE, on SATURDAY OCTOBER 4.

CONTAINING

A SERIES of very extraordinary FACTS, which have never yet transpired; especially her remarkable Relation to Captain THOMAS HOLLAND, of the Manner she came by her Wounds; to whom (and to whom only) she related all the Particulars of that horrid Transaction.

By HEARTFREE,

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Author of Two Letters on the same Subject in the GAZETTEER.

" Lend thy serious Hearing

" To what I shall unfold

" . . a Tale . . . whose lightest Word

" Would harrow up thy Soul!

" Lift, lift, O lift!

" Wounds most foul, as in the best they are,

" But *these*, most foul, strange, and *unnatural*."

SHAKESPEARE.

THE FIFTH EDITION.

DUBLIN:

Printed for D. CHAMBERLAINE, in SMOCK-ALLEY, 1761.

WEST OF CUMSTANTIAL

T. N. U. C. A.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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A CIRCUMSTANTIAL
A C C O U N T, &c. &c.
By HEARTFREE.

IT is a happy and amiable Character which this Nation has justly acquired, that neither the laws, nor the humanity of it's natives, will permit the lowest person to be ill used with impunity, however great the offender may be by birth, by power, or by opulence. Nobles and plebeians, the wealthy and the indigent, are equally eligible to, and protected by, the Legislature; and are equally sharers in the assistance of their fellow subjects whenever it is requisite. Equity and humanity are no respecters of persons: and both these virtues shine eminently conspicuous in this happy Isle. If the death of a menial servant could occasion the holding the highest and most solemn court of judicature in this kingdom, and the noble delinquent be condemned to fall a victim to offended justice; the perpetrator of a deed of cruelty, though to an unhappy female, abandoned to prostitution, will not, it is hoped, if proved upon him, escape punishment.

On the 20th. of October last, I inserted a letter in the Gazetteer concerning Miss Bell * As it gives

A 2 some

This has been since published under the title of the life and real adventures of Ann Sharpe, by the way of appendix to a pamphlet in answer to that written by a journeyman; but the author has not only miserably altered, mutilated, and mangled it; but has very villainously thrown an odium on the ashes of the dead, by introducing some wretched adventures she was never engaged in. He has too, traduced her memory

by



some account of that unfortunate young lady to nearly the time of her receiving her wounds ; and as many persons may never have seen it, it may not be improper to insert a short extract from it, as a necessary prelude to Captain Holland's relation of this mysterious affair.

“ She was of a reputable and opulent family in the county of Norfolk ; her father is in tolerable good circumstances, and her uncle at this time is possessed of at least a thousand pounds a year ; and from whom, in her days of innocence, she had large expectations. Her place of abode was then at Aylsham, about twelve miles from Norwich. She unhappily contracted an intimacy with a gentleman of the army quartered in those parts, who, gaining her affections, deceived, ruined, and debauched her.* She made an elopement from her friends, and was privately concealed by her spark at Norwich for a little time ; at which period her friends found out her retreat, recovered, and took her home. Here she breathed a life of melancholy : her gay, volatile disposition, rendered a sequestration from the world, altogether insupportable ; and the loss of her character kept

by saying she was ruined at fifteen years of age. She was but twenty two when she died, and it was not more than fifteen months from her first acquaintance with her seducer, to that of her death. As a proof of the little knowledge this catchpenny scribler has of her, he has even copied faults out of the gazetteer ; for the printer, by mistake, printed Elsham, instead of Aylsham, (the place of her habitation in the country) and he, as knowing no better, fell into the error, and has thereby incontestably shewn himself a plagiarist, and utterly ignorant of any thing concerning her.

* A Letter in Lloyd's evening has denied this ; asserting that she first made shameful overtures to the officer. But till that is incontestably proved, I must beg to disbelieve the assertion.

“ her



“ her in an almost continual confinement ; hav-
 “ ing entirely deprived her of that association
 “ with her own sex; which her birth and station
 “ might have otherwise commanded.

“ Her friends were sensible of the irksomeness
 “ of her situation, and that it was impossible
 “ for her to recover her reputation, in a place
 “ where every child was acquainted with her
 “ story; the blot upon her fame was indelible
 “ in the country. They therefore removed her
 “ to London, and apprenticed her to a very
 “ reputable chamber-milliner in Leicester-square,
 “ to whom was given an apprentice-fee of
 “ seventy-two guineas. Here she might have
 “ lived happily and creditably, but unfortunately
 “ she had now imbibed a strong inclination for
 “ intriguing. To satisfy this passion, she very
 “ imprudently and precipitately (without the
 “ instigation, as reported, of any man whatever)
 “ eloped from her mistress, after but a short
 “ continuance with her. Where she immedi-
 “ ately went I do not learn ; but a few days after,
 “ she fell in company, at the abode of some new-
 “ contracted acquaintance, near Whitechapel,
 “ with one Sharpe a watchmaker. Here she was
 “ boasting (if relating a truth may be termed so)
 “ of the goodness of her family ; to which she
 “ added her fortunate prospect of wealth at the
 “ death of some of them. The young fellow
 “ seemed to listen with a more than ordinary at-
 “ tentive ear ; which she observing, merrily asked
 “ him if he was single ? He replied in the affir-
 “ mative. This soon brought on a proposal, I
 “ cannot say from which party, of a match be-
 “ tween them. Her inducement to a marriage
 “ with the first that offered, as she afterwards
 “ frequently confess’d, was to remove that power

“ which her friends, or mistress, might otherwise
 “ claim over her ; and the being compelled to
 “ return to either, was what of all things she most
 “ dreaded. Interest, though it flattered him but
 “ in a distant view, it is reasonable to suppose,
 “ was the all-powerful spell that charmed the
 “ man to wed her. But, be it as it may, it is
 “ certain they either that day, or the following,
 “ became man and wife. She was with
 “ him but one night : for on the morrow of
 “ their marriage, business requiring his pre-
 “ sence at Rumford in Essex, she directly de-
 “ camped ; and to elude any search after her,
 “ assumed a fictitious name. The first place I
 “ find her at afterwards, is Madam Modena’s, in
 “ King-street, St. Anne’s, where she lodged some
 “ time. Here it was she commenced, or re-
 “ newed her acquaintance with the actor, who
 “ has been so much mentioned in this affair,
 “ without the least shadow of reason. The first
 “ knowledge she had of him, was the seeing him
 “ perform at Norwich, to which theatre he once
 “ belonged. She wrote him a letter directed to
 “ him at the play-house he is engaged in here
 “ at London ; in which she acquainted him of
 “ her abode, and entreated his company ; with
 “ this he complied, and several times repeated
 “ his visits :—At length the acquaintance
 “ between them broke off. After this she lived
 “ in several places, and by several names, which
 “ will be needless to repeat here.”

I shall now proceed to the account given me
 by Captain Thomas Holland, a gentleman who
 is deservedly esteemed a man of honour and ve-
 racity ; one who would not attempt to sacrifice,
 upon any consideration in life, the peace and repu-
 tation of the innocent, to the manes of female
 friendship ;

friendship; and who cannot be supposed to have any private pique or prejudice against the party accused, having never seen or spoken to him as he informs me, even to this day.

Captain Holland's acquaintance with Miss Bell commenced when she lived with her father at Aylsham, beloved, esteemed, and visited, as a young lady of character and virtue. He was quartered in those parts, and more than once at the town where she lived; he frequently danced with her at the assembly, and has declar'd to me, he never saw the least action in her that derogated from delicacy, modesty, and sobriety. He had some intimacy in her family, particularly with her brother, now an officer in Germany, and who, he does not doubt, when the more important duty he owes his country is at an end there, will see his injured and unhappy sister righted to the utmost. Captain Holland never saw Miss Bell, from the time she left the county of Norfolk, when she lived in reputation with her friends, to that of his seeing her on her death-bed at Marybone; so that this gentleman's motives, for exerting himself on this melancholy occasion, *can have no other* springs, than those of friendship, compassion, humanity, and justice.

The captain being in the city on September 26, called upon Mr. Drake, a Merchant who formerly lived at Aylsham. In the course of conversation Mr. Drake asked him when he saw Miss Bell? He told him not for more than sixteen months; I am informed, returned Mr. Drake that she is extremely ill somewhere at Marybone. The captain was extremely concerned to hear of her unhappy situation, and declared his intentions of enquiring her out, and visiting her. The next

morning he did so, and found her confined to her bed, in a fever; her condition, so far differing from that he had left her in at Aylsham, affected him greatly! he asked her if she knew him? She returned no answer for about the space of a minute, but looked at him in seeming anguish, and then wept exceedingly: she now took him by the hand, as he stood by her bedside, and repeated faintly, "Yes, yes, I know you," then resuming more strength, said with great earnestness, "I wish I had seen you a month ago, for then, perhaps, this might not have happened; but now I am lost — *I am murdered*." This expression shock'd Captain Holland much, and made him impatient for the melancholy story; yet as he perceived her very faint and weak, begged her not to fatigue herself with recounting it then, but postpone it till the afternoon, when he would come again, and hear it, if her strength permitted her to relate it: he did so, and took with him another gentleman, one Mr. Moon. He found her something better, and sat down by her; she desired him to assist her to sit up in the bed, which he did, but it was with the utmost pain to her; she talk'd some little time on several past occurrences, when they were together in the country. At last, says she, "I have wrote to my father, and expect him in town, but I am not anxious now about his coming, for I am confident you will be my friend; and see me righted." He asked her if any person had used her ill? She replied, "Yes, yes,—but—but"—(here she paused and looked at Mr. Moon, then turned to the Captain and continued) "If you will call to-morrow morning, I will relate something to you, will surprize you." Perceiving her very faint, Captain Holland took his leave, promising to return in the morning. He was punctual, but before he

went

went into her room, the nurse who attended her, desired to speak with him, and took him aside for that purpose. She then informed him that her mistress had got two frightful wounds, which appeared to her, to be cut with a sharp instrument, through some villainy. That they were so extremely bad she could not administer a glyster, which had been ordered her by the apothecary, Mr. Thomas Blifs, of Tyburn-road. The Captain replied, he apprehended this to be the circumstance Miss Bell wanted to relate to him. He then went into her room, sat down and enquired after her health. She requested him to lend her his assistance, that she might sit up in her bed. He told her the nurse's words; and asked her how she came by the wounds. Her answer was, "It is true; that villain Sutton gave them me." Who, says he, is this Sutton? She replied, "A young merchant, who used to keep company with Sir William Fowler." The Captain then intreated her, if she found her strength would permit it, to relate her story from the time of her first coming to town. She acquiesced.

I find very little variation of circumstances in her narration (as the Captain has since related it to me) from the account I have already given of her proceedings to the public. Those circumstances which she told him that have not yet transpired, it may be necessary to mention: in the course of her unhappy profession (she said) she contracted an injury; when one Mr. B—r, a gentleman of fortune, with whom she had commenced an acquaintance, took compassion on her, provided her a lodging, and put her under cure. At this very time her father came to town, to Mr. Drake's the merchant; this gentleman assisted him in finding of her out; in their enquiries they received information,

mation, that she was kept by Mr. B—r: they made application to him, and he very readily promised to introduce her to them; a tavern was appointed, and Mr. B—r was punctual to his promise: her father took her with him that night to Mr. Drake's in the city; she consented to return with him home to her disconsolate mother who was most affectionately fond of her; and she lay there that night. In the morning (unfortunately for her, as it has since proved) Mr. B—r came to Mr. Drake's and desired her father to put her again under his protection, as she was not perfectly well of her illness; promising that he would take the utmost care of her, that he would place her at a friend's house in the country, and when well, deliver her up to him again. To this her father most unaccountably consented, and on that very day he took a hackney coach, from Mr. Drake's and went and surrendered her to Mr. B—r. She parted from her father, and Mr. B—r hired her an apartment at the king of Bohemia's-head on Turnham-green. "Here (said she) he placed me as a young lady, to whom he was guardian; he visited me pretty constantly in the day time, and the greatest harmony subsisted between us. But this lasted not long, Sir W. F. came to see me, and introduced Sutton, with whom I was then utterly unacquainted; this created frequent words between Mr. B—r and me, under whose protection, however, I, still continued: Sir W. and his companion, coming pretty often, increased Mr. B—r's and my differences, which rendering my situation extremely uneasy, I determined to leave Turnham-green, unknown to them all; I did so, came to town, and took lodgings at Mrs. Sarah Parker's, in Spring-garden." Captain Holland then asked her, how she came to see Mr. Sutton again? She told him

him that after about three weeks absence, he and Sir W. discovered her retreat, and coming one morning to see her, they requested, or rather insisted, on her taking a walk, to which she consented. At night, they went to Haddock's bagnio Charingcross; that here another young lady, Miss Young, came to sup with them. They continued at the bagnio three nights successively, amidst the utmost rioting and intemperance, [it has appeared since that they dined each of the three days at the Cardigan-head tavern, Charing-cross, but this she omitted mentioning to the Captain] they drank extremely hard; not less than three pints of ratafia a day, besides other liquors, to her own share. During this time, she said, Mr. Sutton used her exceedingly ill, striking her several times; she got a fall down stairs, and greatly hurt her side, but could not take upon her to say positively, whether she was thrown, or fell down: [this shews her relation to be given unprejudiced, that she was not inclined to the telling of lies, and that she was unwilling to attribute to another that blame which she was not absolutely certain they deserved.] Captain Holland very judiciously interrogated her, whether or no she might not have received her wounds from that fall? She replied, "No, no I did not; they were given me by that villain Sutton, with a penknife." At the same time, she told the Captain to this purport, and as near as he could recollect, in these very words. "Before he gave me the wounds, he told me he would cut me so that I should not be able to sit, and if that would not do, when he saw me again, he would cut me so that I should not be able to live: he then instantly pulled out a penknife, and stabbed me, as if he had been stabbing of a hog." Here she endeavoured to describe to the Captain the manner of his cutting
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of her, by pointing towards the wounds, and making motions, repeating at the same time, "So, so," or "Thus, thus." He asked what she had done to Mr. Sutton, that he should be guilty of such a cruel and atrocious act? "I cannot tell," returned she, for I do not know that I ever affronted him in my life; at least never to deserve such treatment." After she had received the wounds [the captain could not recollect, for certain, how long she said it was after] she found herself very ill; went home sick, faint, and laid down; Mrs. Parker and her maid first bathing her bruises, which she had got almost from head to foot, with hot vinegar; all which she declared (except the hurt on her side, by the fall) she received from Sutton. Captain Holland asked, if she saw Mr. Sutton afterwards? Her reply was "No, but finding my illness increase, and that he did not come near me, I wrote him a letter, informing him of my sickness and distress, and requesting some money; he sent me by the chairman who carried it, a very paltry and dirty answer, for one who assumes the character of a gentleman. The letter is in my portmanteau, and that is in the possession of Mr. Bliss, the apothecary, who has the care also of all my things." [I have been well informed that Mr. B— has been so extremely ungentle, as to expose and read to several persons Miss Bell's correspondence: the copies of her own letters and those also she received from other people: particularly one written to her by a certain captain in his majesty's navy; who, he may rest assured, shall be acquainted with this proceeding, and the comments he has been pleased to make upon that gentleman's epistle.]

About

About this time, she said, Sir William Fowler, came to see her, and behaved with great humanity and generosity. He sent for Mr. Blifs, desired him to be particularly careful of her, suffer her to want for nothing, and gave him some money. "Mr. Blifs (said she) removed me in a chair to these lodgings, provided me with a nurse, and has since attended upon me.—This is my story; my ill usage is a truth, and *that* Sutton is the *cause* of my *death*. I am very sensible that the wounds will *kill* me, and I hope you, Captain Holland, will see me have *justice* done, as I have no other friend here *but* you." He now enquired of her whether any *other* person had ill used her, for that great liberties had been taken with Sir William Fowler's name in the affair? She replied "no—not any person.—Sir William has behaved to me, and more especially of late, extremely like a gentleman."

The captain promised her to use every means in his power to bring the perpetrator of her ill usage to justice. But considering it would be more essentially necessary at the present to have some care taken of her wounds, he told her he would go immediately to Mr. Blifs for that purpose; she desired he would. He went, but Mr. Blifs was not at home. He told his man, that Miss Bell had two wounds, begged either he, or his master, would go instantly and examine them, and that he would call in the afternoon to know Mr. Blifs's sentiments concerning them. [It may be naturally wondered at here, that Miss Bell never told of her wounds till they were discovered by her nurse. That she had had them some time, when discovered, was obvious by the appearance they then made.—Those who knew her well, attribute her conceal-

concealing them, only to their being given in the place where they were; for she preserved, to the last, a degree of delicacy, seldom, if ever before, found in one of her unhappy profession.] When the captain returned, Mr. Bliss was at home; he informed him he had already been with his patient. Captain Holland asked his opinion of the wounds? He replied he could hardly tell, that it was a very *odd affair*, such a one as he never had in hand before in his life: That the wounds seemed to him to be cut with some instrument, and that they were *very bad*, on account of her having had them so long without dressing. He desired Mr. Bliss to acquaint him, whether the lady had the venereal disorder? His answer was “*I cannot take upon me to say she has.*” The captain did not think it proper to inform Mr. Bliss by what means she came by her wounds, therefore, after entreating him to be careful of her, departed. From thence he went to Marybone; Miss Bell told him Mr. Bliss had dressed her wounds, and said they would do very well. In a few minutes, he took his leave, as she seemed greatly in want of rest. The next morning the captain saw her again, and as she seemed in tolerable spirits, questioned her in relation to her story of the preceding day, and she repeated the major part of it almost word for word, as before. From this time he saw her twice a day, to the Thursday before her death. She never faltered in her account to Captain Holland, always persisted that Sutton gave her the wounds, and was ever perfectly in her senses when he saw her. The last words he had with her, worth relating, were these; “I am going (says he) to write to your *father*; have you any thing particular to say to him?” She replied “no;” but after a little pause, she said eagerly, as if recollecting herself, “Pray give my duty to my dear *mother*,

"*her*, and let her know, I have not a great while
 " to be in this world, but I hope I shall meet her
 " in another, where *we* may be more happy than
 " *we* have been in this."—She spoke this so sensibly pathetic, and with such an affecting eloquence in her looks, that the captain could not refrain joining his tears to hers.—A certain indication of a compassionate and brave mind!

On the Friday morning the maid and nurse informed Captain Holland, that a surgeon had been there the day before, that the wounds were black, and, they believed, mortified, and that their mistress was dying. Finding her so extremely bad, he did not go into her chamber to disturb her. On the morrow Saturday October 4, he went in the forenoon, and found she had been dead about an hour.

It will now be proper to take notice of the method taken to bury her. I am told there are no searchers in that, as in other parishes, whose business it is to examine of what disease every person dies. Mr. Bliss the apothecary therefore thought it necessary, and applied to Mr. Umfreville, one of the coroners for the county of Middlesex, for his warrant to bury her, and obtained it. As a proof of this, I shall insert an authentic copy of a letter, written by Mr. Umfreville to his brother coroner concerning it.

" S I R,
 " **I** Was last Sunday attended by Mr. Bliss, and
 " the undertaker, and by *what was related*, I
 " was of opinion the matter was not coroner's business.—The girl's case was *venereal*, and I
 " therefore gave leave to bury in ease of the county
 " ty

“ ty charge,—The affair has been before Mr.
“ Fielding.

October 8, 1760.

E. U.”

I shall postpone the observations I have to make on Mr. Bliss's *extraordinary* application to the coroner, and his *extraordinary* behaviour in the whole affair, till I have done with Captain Holland, &c.

The first step the captain took after the death of this unfortunate young creature, was the going to Justice Fielding, in order to relate the story of her woes, that he who was the cruel cause of them might be brought to condign punishment. There he gave the account, or the greatest part of it, which I have already told: he was desired to get the Maid thither in a Coach, he did so, and her examination was also taken.—On the Thursday after her death (her body having been ordered to be taken up) a beadle brought him a summons from the coroner, requiring him to appear as the next day, at the Kings-head in Marybone, to give his Evidence relating to the death of Anne Sharpe. He attended, but no Coroner came, having, as he said in a letter to the jury, mistaken the day, and therefore begged their presence on the morrow. At night the Captain received a *written letter* from Mr. Umfreville, to inform him of the mistake, and to desire his attendance the next day: He did so,—After the surgeons had examined the body in the Bone-house, the jury retired to the Kings-head to examine the witnesses; several were so: the physician, surgeons, apothecary, maid, nurse, &c. &c. During this Captain Holland waited without, expecting to be called in. Finding no manner of notice was taken of him, and being impatient to give his testimony, he sent in word by
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the man who guarded the door, that he was desirous of being examined. The answer was, "He is not wanted, for the jury are *satisfied*." "A person who was there too, one Mr. Hartry, sent in for Mr. Watkins of Drury-Lane theatre, a jurymen, and begged of him that Capt. Holland might give his Evidence, *but it was to no purpose*. The captain then went away to another house where he had some company. They remarked that he looked disturbed. "I am so, says he, I have "been summoned by the coroner as a witness, "and they refuse to hear me." After being a very little while with his friends, he started up, exclaiming. "If the jury are *satisfied*, I am not, "and am determined to go back again." When he came there, he sent in the same person, as before, who stood at the door, to tell the coroner and the jury that he was there, and was dissatisfied at not being examined.—The answer again was, "he is not wanted, for the jury are *satisfied*." The captain was therefore *obliged* to return to his friends, and home, *unquestioned*.

Upon this captain Holland wrote to Mr. Sutton at the Devizes, recapitulating what Miss Bell had said of the ill usage she had received from him. To which Mr. Sutton returned the captain the following answer.

S I R, Devizes, October 16, 1760.
BY last post I was *favoured* with a letter from Capt. Holland, with whom I have not the pleasure to be acquainted; and I must confess I am greatly *surprised* at the charge laid against me by Miss Bell, to whom I never offered the least *injury* or *affront* in my life. The cause of her death I am as ignorant of as the child unborn, and was it the last word I had to say, I would still

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persist

persist in my *innocency*. Had I been conscious to myself of being the author of so *horrid* a *crime*, I should not have enjoyed one moment's peace of mind; and was it not for an *unhappy* difference that subsists among a *part* of our family, I would not have delayed one moment to *return* to London, *in order* to clear myself from so *infamous* and *cruel* an aspersions, and which, to an innocent person, is of the blackest nature. The letter Miss Bell writ to me I have now by me; she does not make the least mention of my having cut her with a knife, which she certainly would have done, had I been the author. And I can make it plainly appear, that she has often said, and sworn to things *when in liquor*, which she has absolutely denied the morning following. What credit then can be given to what such people say? Was I *now* in London, I could bring people of the first fashion to *answer* for me. And I *defy* any person to *prove* that I ever offered Miss Bell the least insult in my life. How sensibly then a thing of this nature must affect me, I leave you, Sir, to guess. When I return again to London, which I *hope* will be *now* soon, I will do myself the pleasure to call on you, when I can *explain myself more clearly* by word of mouth, than I can by letter. I am with due regard,

Sir,

Your most humble servant,

Willy Sutton.

When you do me the favour to write again, I *beg* you will *direct* your letter to be *left* at the post office here.

Observations. Mr. Sutton is extremely singular in his notions, to think a letter, charging him with such a crime, a *favour*. As to his being *surprized* at the charge, there can be no doubt made of it :
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any person would *naturally* be so, under the *same* circumstances; but as to his having never offered her the least injury or affront, he is surely *mistaken* as has been, and will be, incontestibly, proved, notwithstanding his defiance to the contrary. In regard to his *persisting* in his *innocency*; it is the *safest* way; but whether he is *really* innocent of her wounds, the perusers of this pamphlet will be able to judge. It was a little *unfortunate* for Mr. Sutton that an *unhappy* difference should so *critically* subsist among a *part* of his family, and thereby prevent his *return* to London *in order* to clear himself from so *infamous* and *cruel* an aspersions! So *horrid* a *crime*!—But, I believe, few persons, besides Mr. Sutton, would esteem it more important, to adjust a difference in a *part* of a family, than to clear their reputation from such a charge of cruelty, and barbarity!—Love we know will lead men to the greatest extremes: a wife beloved, discovered to be perfidious, *might* overwhelm a husband *so* as to be regardless of all other considerations! but this is not Mr. Sutton's case; he is single.—That Miss Bell did not mention his cutting her in her letter, is true; for she read and shewed it to others, before she sent it. Why she did not mention it, can be accounted for only in the same manner, as for her never telling of her wounds till they were discovered; that is, her delicacy. Perhaps her goodness of heart too: chusing rather to *intreat* assistance, than *extort* it.—As to Mr. Sutton's making it appear that she has said things *when in liquor*, which she has denied the following morning, that may be; but what then? If Mr. Sutton means, that when she was *sober* she recanted from her assertions made when in liquor, it argues the amiableness of her disposition, that would not suffer her to continue in an untruth. But if he would be understood, that what she said

in liquor she denied (when sober) ever having said at all I do not wonder at it. To say what they ought not, and to forget what they said, is a failing most, if not all, who drink to intoxication, are subject to; and yet free from liquor, they may be such who would scorn a lie.—He says, if he was in London, he could bring persons of the first fashion to *answer* for him. How *answer* for him? What! that he did not cut her? Surely none can do that; and where is the friend who will *answer* for him in any other way? It is now more than two months since Mr. Sutton wrote this letter, and he has not yet thought it *proper* to come to London to *explain* himself *more clearly* to the captain by *word of mouth*.—There is something a little extraordinary too in the postscript. Why should Mr. Sutton *beg* the next letter so *directed* to be *left* at the post-house, *rather* than his own home, where the captain directed the first? was he afraid any person should see it? Surely the letters were upon a subject that every *innocent* person would be glad to communicate to their friends, in order to procure their advice how to act under such an infamous aspersions!

“ *The brave do never shun the light,
 “ Just are their thoughts and open are their tempers,
 “ Still are they found in the fair face of day,
 “ And heaven and men are judges of their actions.*
 “ ROWE.”

About the same time that Captain Holland wrote to Mr. Sutton, he sent a letter to Miss Bell's father, with an account of the unhappy affair of his daughter, and what she had related to him; in answer to which he received the following.

“ S I R,

" S I R, *Aylsham, October 16, 1760.*
 " Y Ours came to hand but this day, and I am
 " obliged to you for the care towards my
 " poor unfortunate daughter. As to Sutton, I
 " am *determined* to bring him to the *Bar* for his
 " barbarity and cruelty, if it costs me *five thousand*
 " *pounds*. I have enclos'd a letter for Sutton, not
 " knowing how to direct to him, and shall take it
 " as a *great favour* would you *seal* it up and *deli-*
 " *ver* it to him *yourself*.—Your answer *what Sut-*
 " *ton says* by next post, will oblige

S I R,

Your most obedient
 humble servant,

William Bell."

N. B. I shall be obliged to you to let me know,
 whether or no you be the same Captain Holland
 that used to come to our house. Also please to
 let me know how to direct to this Sutton. The
 surgeons that examined the body, I will take care
 they shall be made easy, and every person that
 assisted her during her illness.—Excuse errors.

The letter enclosed for Mr. Sutton was as follows.

" Mr. Sutton,

" S I R,

" B Y many informations that I have had sent
 " me from Justice Fielding and many others,
 " you are the *villain* that gave my daughter two
 " stabs with a penknife in a place called the Os
 " Sacrum, of which wounds she died. Now if
 " you do not *immediately* make an *atonement* or
 " *retaliation* for this your cruelty, I will make you
 " appear at the bar, if it cost me five thousand
 " pounds, or *more*.—This is all proved against

B 3

" you

“ you, and that you was the cause of her death.
 “ —It was spoke of at Lord O——’s by a noble-
 “ man, how that you and Sir W. F. had used my
 “ daughter extremely ill, and that you ought to
 “ be brought to punishment.—You likewise swore,
 “ that if ever you saw her again, you would so
 “ stab her that she should not live. *You see my*
 “ *determination.*” Your’s,

Aylsham, October 16, 1760.

William Bell.

Captain Holland instead of transmitting Mr. Bell’s letter to Sutton, very judiciously suppressed it, and wrote Mr. Bell an answer, signifying that he did not think it proper to send such a letter, requiring from a supposed murderer *atonement* and *retaliation* to a father for the death of a daughter; and telling of him that as he had threatened, otherwise, to bring him to the bar, that *that* was the atonement expected by the public. To this the Captain received no answer: upon which he wrote to the reverend Mr. W. minister of the parish of Aylsham, the purport of which was, the giving him an account of the affair; of Mr. Bell’s letter to him and Sutton, and the desiring him to acquaint Mr. B. that as he had heard that his [Captain Holland’s] name had been called in question, in the country, in the affair, if he [Mr. Bell] did not take some proper steps to clear up the mystery, and right his injured daughter, he might depend upon having his letters made public.

On the 23d or 24th of October Captain Holland wrote a second letter to Mr. Sutton to this purpose, that he was not satisfied in regard to his innocency in the affair of Miss Bell, and that he thought, if he *was* innocent, that the *only* means to vindicate his character would be to return to town, and
endeavour

endeavour to clear himself. That he hoped he did not take him for an enemy, for that if he would come to London, he would give him every assistance in his power, *as far as justice would allow him*; &c. &c. This, Mr. Sutton answered as follows.

“ S I R, *Devizes, October 25; 1760.*

“ I Am this day *favoured* with a second letter
 “ from you, by which I find you express great
 “ surprise that I should (as you say) still persist in
 “ my innocence relating to the affair of Miss Bell.
 “ This expression (I must confess) is to me very
 “ odd, for was I in the least conscious to myself
 “ of having committed the *beinous* crime laid so
 “ *maliciously* to my charge, you could not think me
 “ so void of sense to continue in this place in the
 “ *unconcerned* open manner I do *at present*. Every
 “ man has a monitor within him that will inform
 “ him when he has done amiss, especially in a
 “ case of this nature. This certainly must have
 “ been my case, had I been the author of her
 “ death. I am much obliged to you, Sir, for your
 “ profession of *friendship* in the letter you writ me,
 “ but (thank God) my innocence is sufficient to
 “ protect me against those who have so villainously
 “ *sworn* against me. And since matters are come
 “ to such a pass, I am *determined* to see the end of
 “ it, let what will be the consequence. I do assure
 “ you, Sir, I am by no means *deterr’d* at the
 “ thoughts of a trial, *that* being the *only* means
 “ by which I can justify myself. Besides, let my
 “ *innocence* appear ever so clear, it must notwithstanding
 “ greatly prejudice me in the *opinion* of
 “ my friends, at having a thing of this nature
 “ laid to my charge. The world will *possibly* be
 “ *surprised* at my not coming to town; and *per-*
 “ *haps* may imagine me *guilty*, and that I am *now*
 “ *secreting*

“ secreting myself from justice. I do assure you
 “ this affair gives me very little concern ; let Mr.
 “ Bell’s determination be what it will, I have no
 “ doubt but my innocence will secure me, and
 “ that my friends wil *support* me in bringing to
 “ justice the *authors* of so *horrid* an accusation.
 “ I am, with due regard,

“ S I R,

“ Your very humble servant,

“ WILLY SUTTON.”

Observations. Mr. Sutton, with the same singularity of notion as in his former, styles Captain Holland’s letter a *favour* ; though this same *favour* was no other than an assurance that the Captain disbelieved his assertions of innocency, and consequently supposed him the perpetrator of a most unnatural deed upon a defenceless female.—Mr. Sutton says, it is a heinous crime laid *maliciously* to his charge. That Miss Bell *had* two wounds, and that she charged Mr. Sutton with having *given* her *them*, is, I apprehend ; believed to be most certain ; and few, I imagine, who are told that she daily, constantly, and to the last moment (when she was going to appear before an Almighty and all knowing judge) persisted in the same story, will think she charged him *maliciously* or *wrongfully* ; and much fewer will think that the giving her two *such* wounds, in *such* a part, was *not* a *beinous* crime. It therefore *must* follow, that it was a *beinous* crime *not* laid MALICIOUSLY to Mr. Sutton’s charge,—I will not, cannot, take upon me to say, that the wounds were the cause of her death, yet, notwithstanding, however *unconcerned* Mr. Sutton says he was, at *that present*, when he wrote the letter, I hope the *Monitor* he has *within him* tells him there is reason enough for his not being so *unconcerned* at *this present*. Mr. Sutton, after
 thanking

thanking the Captain for his profession of friendship, [and which, by the by, can scarce be called friendship, for declaring himself an adherent to justice and not his enemy] praises God, that his *innocence* is sufficient to *protect* him. Does Mr. Sutton mean his *innocence* in regard to her *death*? If so, *perhaps* it may be *sufficient*. But if he means his *innocence* in respect to her *wounds*, I fancy he will find *little* protection from *that*. He intimates that some people have villainously *forsworn* themselves. All who were *permitted* to be *sworn* at the coroner's inquest, were a physician, three surgeons, an *apothecary*, Mr. Moody, Mr. Gyffard, Mr. Davis, the nurse, and the maid. Which, and how many, of these, does Mr. Sutton think *swore villainously* against him? Till he explains himself, he certainly lays the crime of perjury at the door of *every one* of them; and makes it incumbent on *every one* to clear themselves from the aspersion. As things are come to such a pass, he is *determined*, he says, to see the *end* of it, *let what will be the consequence*. All good people wish the same! And that Mr. Sutton was either convicted, if guilty, or acquitted, if innocent, by a higher form of law than a coroner's inquest; where *no* person's testimony would be *refused* to be heard.—Mr. Sutton says, a trial is the *only* means by which he can justify himself. Why then, instead of staying in the country, has he not appeared publickly in London, and *seemed* to *seek* that *only* justification?—He supposes the world will *possibly* be *surprized* at his not coming to town. I can assure him the world are not *at all* surprized at it; the reason is too evident.—He then says, perhaps they [the world] may *imagine* me *guilty*, and that I am now *secreting* myself from justice. I am sorry to inform him that most people *do imagine so*.—He concludes in not doubting but his friends will support him

him in bringing to justice the authors of so *horrid* an *accusation*. The *accusation* is a *horrid* one indeed ! and if a *false* one, it is high time he proceeded against the accusers, and *proved* their villainy upon them ; *otherwise* the world *must* be apt to think the accusation not so false as he seems to say it is.

In consequence of the letter which captain Holland wrote to the minister of Aylsham, as mentioned before, he received the following epistle from Mr. Bell.

S I R,

“ T H E uneasiness, my unhappy daughter
 “ has occasioned me, is inexpressible, and
 “ for you to add to my misfortune by your un-
 “ kind letter to Mr. W——h is not kind or ge-
 “ nerous. The letter I sent you for Sutton, I
 “ will *allow*, was *not proper* ; and as I was *diffi-*
 “ *dent* in my own mind about it, I sent it you
 “ unsealed, that you might peruse it, and if you
 “ did not approve it, I judged you would not
 “ deliver it, which I think was very right, and
 “ am obliged to you, you did not. I have re-
 “ ceived the depositions from justice Fielding,
 “ and they are now under consideration by a
 “ person eminent in the law. When I have re-
 “ ceived his answer I shall acquaint you the re-
 “ sult of his opinion, by which I shall govern
 “ myself with the advice of my friends : There-
 “ fore you must not impute to me any neglect
 “ of regard to my daughter, for I must be gover-
 “ ned by those who are superior to me in judg-
 “ ment in this unhappy affair. In the interim
 “ I am, Sir,

Your most obedient
 humble servant,

Aylsham, 19th Nov. 1760.

W. BELL.
Obser-

Observations. I shall be as tender, and brief as possible, in remarking upon Mr. Bell's letter; but *something* of that sort is absolutely necessary, as he charges the captain with being *unkind* and *ungenerous*; when throughout the whole of this unfortunate young lady's affair, he has, most certainly, shewn himself fraught with the tenderest sentiments of *kindness* and *generosity*, and every virtue that constitutes a lover of friendship, justice, and humanity. Mr. Bell is most undoubtedly in the right, in *allowing* his letter to Mr. Sutton to be *improper*. Who is it does not *shudder* at the very thoughts of a father threatening the murderer of a daughter (for he tells him he was the cause of her death by stabbing her) with making him appear at the bar, if he did not make *atonement* or *retaliation*?—How can Mr. Bell say he was *diffident* in his own mind, about the letter's being delivered to Sutton, and therefore sent it unsealed for the captain's approval or rejection of it, when in his first letter he *peremptorily* desires him to *seal it up*, and (no doubt for fear it should miscarry) requests him to *deliver it himself* to Sutton?—Mr. Bell says the depositions are under consideration by a person *eminent* in the law; and that when he had received his answer, he would acquaint the captain with the result of his opinion. The matter is indeed knotty and mysterious, but I apprehend any gentleman *eminent* in the law might have given his mature opinion before now: However, Captain Holland has not *yet* received Mr. Bell's promised information: He consequently cannot know whether he is to *impute* it to a *neglect* of regard to his daughter, or to any other cause.

I have

I have now done with captain Holland's account: An account which carries conviction in every line! The praise of every friend to truth and justice is due to this gentleman; and I make no doubt but he will receive it from them all. But that there may not remain the least shadow of a reason for his relation to be disbelieved, I shall now support it by such incontestible corroborating evidences, as will set the truth of it beyond the possibility of a doubt.

As to the letters received from Mr. Bell and Mr. Sutton, (the originals now in my possession) will testify for them. In regard to the girl's story, I shall first concisely lay before the reader what she said to Miss Ann Knight, the daughter of the person at whose house she was at Marybone, and who, though summoned to give her evidence before the coroner, *was never called in for that purpose.*

Miss Knight avers, that Miss Bell told her, that when Sutton and she fell out, he declared himself to this purport, "*that he had a good mind to cut her backside so as she could not sit.*" That Sir William Fowler being *then* in company, made answer, "*Sure you would not offer to do such a thing!*" that Sutton said, "*Yes, and if, madam, you speak another word, I will cut your face in the same manner.*" That he *afterwards* pulled out a knife and *cut* her; (marking at the same time with her finger how) then pulled the knife out of the first wound, and stuck it into another. That he bent her fingers back as if he would have broke them, and that they turned immediately black. That Sutton said to this effect, "*He had put it out of the doctor's power to cure her, but he*
"*could*

" could cure her with such another job ; and that
 " he would do the next time he saw her." Miss
 Bell also told Miss Knight, that she believed if it
 had not been for Sir William Fowler, Sutton would
 have *killed* her.

Observations. Although the above are not the
very words which Miss Bell related to the captain,
 of the manner of Sutton's wounding her, yet, by
 comparing, they will be found to bear *just* the
same sense.—She seems to have been rather more
 explicit in this part of her story to Miss Knight
 than to the captain, but that is easily accounted
 for. She could say to a woman *that*, which her
 delicacy would not permit her to repeat to a man ;
 and the omission of the word *backside* to the cap-
 tain, is a proof of it.—It is true that she said
 nothing to captain Holland of Sutton's telling her
 he would put it out of the doctor's power to
 cure her ; but then she said to him, that he (Sut-
 ton) told her he would cut her so that she should
 not be able to live ; which, in fact, is *one* and the
same thing.—She never mentioned to the captain
 Sir William Fowler's remonstrance to Sutton upon
 his threatening her, nor even that he was in the
 room at that time ;— that might be forgetful-
 ness. Few of us (even when our thoughts are
 not disturbed by pain or sickness as hers were)
 remember *every* circumstance of my affair we are
 relating ?—There is one thing I must not pass
 remarking.—That Sir William Fowler was present
once when Sutton threatened Miss Bell, seems evi-
 dent by the foregoing testimony ; but whether it
 was at *that* threatening when he *afterwards* stabbed
 her, is not *so* evident : he might indeed be *pre-*
sent at the *very* threatening, and yet be *out of the*
room when the wounds were given.—Neither is it
 clear by her account to Miss Knight, whether or
 no

no Sir William was in company *when* he stabbed her.—If it had not been for Sir William, she believed, she said, that she should have been killed by Sutton, but that by no means makes it plain that he (Sir William) was by *when* she was wounded. He might have come to her relief *immediately after*; or perhaps he might have prevented her being ill used some other time, and she be thereby persuaded within herself, that he had saved her life. But be it as it may, it is most certain Sir William had more honour and humanity in him than to *assist* in, or *abet* such an atrocious piece of cruelty: and it is but an act of justice in me, as he is incapable of answering for himself, being in the service of his country, a volunteer, in Germany, to take this, and every opportunity of vindicating his character from the aspersions thrown upon it in this affair,—It may indeed be said, that if he *was* present, he *might* have prevented it. I say, no: these things are generally done too instantaneously to admit of prevention. It is true Sutton threatened her first, and some may say Sir William should have been therefore alarmed, and have guarded against it; but how often, how *very* often, do we hear drunken, or passionate people, *threaten* what we have not the least belief they intend to *execute*? And who among us is there would believe, that *any* man who calls himself a gentleman, *could* commit *such* a cruelty?

The next corroborating evidence I shall bring is Miss Bell's maid, Elizabeth Honeybald. She *was* indeed examined before the coroner, but not in many points which she had knowledge of, and which might have illustrated the affair.

This young woman lived at the King of Bohemia's Head at Turnham Green, and entered
into

into Miss Bell's service there. She says Miss Bell lay with the person's daughter who kept the house, and passed there for some time as a virtuous young lady ; that she behaved as such, nor was in the least suspected for the contrary, 'till Sir W. and S. used to come there. That when her mistress left Turnham Green, she lived with her at Mrs. Parker's. She says she never saw her drunk in her life, her common drink being wine and water. That when Sir William and Sutton called upon her mistress, *she went out with them in perfect health.* That the same morning her mistress came home from the Bagnio, she first sent for a clean shift, cap, handkerchief, and pair of stockings. That before she carried them to her mistress, she went for something to the Rummer, which is next door to the Bagnio, and the gentlewoman of the house said to her, " there has been a great noise, and a sad piece of work to night with Sir W. and Sutton ! *it is well if there has been no murder.*" That when she took the things to her mistress, which was about ten o'clock, *the waiter refused to let her see her.* That when her mistress came home, she said, " *I have received my death wound from that villain Sutton.*" These words the maid thinks were said too, in presence of Mrs. Parker. That on her repeatedly asking what she meant by them, "*she said she had been used ill ;*" but could get nothing else out of her. That her mistress was *bruised all over, had lumps in her head, and her fingers so black* that she was obliged to wear gloves for some time after, to prevent their being seen. That she came home sick, faint, and laid down. That there was *blood* on her shift, and two of her petticoats *behind.* That her mistress read the letter to her, which she wrote to Mr. Sutton for money, in her sickness and distress : that she did not mention in it

it his giving her the wounds ; but that she told her the money she sent for, Sutton owed her, and so she thinks it was written in the letter. That her mistress read the answer, which she well remembers was in these words.* “ *Miss Bell, if you are well, I am well, pay the post, and all is well.*” That she was present when her mistress related to Miss Knight, Sutton’s ill usage ; and that it was just in the same manner (having had it read to her) as Miss Knight hath told it.—Note, Mr. Sutton in one of his letters defies any person to prove he ever offered any affront to Miss Bell. In answer to which I must tell him, that her maid has sworn before the coroner, that she knew nothing of his giving her the wounds, [i. e. did not *see* him give her them] but that he used her ill from the *first* to the *last*. And the maid tells me she has seen him *strike* her mistress *often*. If this is not offering her any affront, I wonder what is ?

I shall now bring the testimony of Miss Young, whose character, in point of veracity, is said to be unquestionable, and who is ready to support her assertions by any and every method prescribed by law.

Her account is, that she has frequently seen Mr. Sutton act in such a manner to Miss Bell, that *she* should have thought it *ill usage* from *any* person. That she was at the Bagnio with the deceased, Sir W. and Sutton. That one time in particular, on Sutton’s behaving ill to Miss Bell, Sir William expostulated with him thus : “ Sutton, how can you behave so ill to her ? *you know how good she is* “ when she is sober ; you act *more like a beast* than

* This is the letter Miss Bell told captain Holland was in the possession of Mr. Blifs, and which she called a poultry answer.—It was, no doubt, in her situation, an inhuman one !

“ a man.”

a man." That on the deceased's saying " she
 " heard her father was coming to town to fetch her
 " home, but that she would rather die than go
 " home after what had happened ;" meaning her
 present situation of life : Sir William made answer,
 " my dear *do* go home, if there is any difference
 " subsisting between your father and you, I will
 " endeavour to settle it, or do any thing for you in
 " my power. You are ill now, but if you get well
 " before I go into Germany, I will carry you
 " home myself." Miss Bell replied, " no, no, I am
 " *afraid* to go home ; I could *never* live *happy*."
 That Mr. Bliss the apothecary came to them at the
 Bagnio. That he was there at least two hours.
 That he sat at table with them all supper time.
 That she is certain he drank, but cannot take upon
 her to say he eat with them, unless cracking and
eating a great many nuts may be deemed so. That
 Sir W. Miss Bell, Sutton, and herself, were going
 out of town the next morning, but Mr. Bliss com-
 ing to them *unexpected*, prevented them, That they
 then went to the Cardigan's Head Tavern to dinner,
 whither Mr. Bliss accompanied them, and dined
 with them. That when Miss Bell was ill at home
 at Mrs. *Parker's*, she went to see her, and that she
 then said, " I am very ill, I have *received* some
inward hurt, " and *that* Sutton has been the *ruin* of
 " me." She also said she should *die*, and that if
 " she was not moved from where she was (to the
 country I suppose) she should not live half an hour."
 That she shewed her [Miss Young] Sutton's an-
 swer to the letter she had wrote him, informing
 him of her sickness and distress ; and that the
 words of it were, " Miss Bell, if you are well, I
 am well, pay the post, and all is well." That
 she was greatly affected with Miss Bell's unhap-
 py situation, begg'd her to accept some money,
 and then took her leave. That she went
 C directly

directly to Sir William Fowler, and told him Miss Bell was dying; and begged for God's sake he would go to her, for that she had neither money nor friends; and that she had wrote to Sutton for some, but he had refused her. That Sir William seemed greatly surprized and moved at his barbarity, exclaiming, "*Is it possible!*" That he went with her to Miss Bell, and greatly compassionated her distressful situation, giving three guineas to Mrs. Parker, and desiring her to let her have any thing she *wanted*, or could *wish* for. [Sir W. also sent for Mr. Bliss to attend her, and upon Mr. Bliss's advising her to be removed, gave him five guineas for that purpose, &c.]

Observations. Miss Young not only strengthens captain Holland's relation in many points, but invalidates Sutton's defiance in regard to his never having offered any insult to Miss Bell. She also proves Mr. Bliss did not *recollect* himself enough when he swore before the jury. And she incontestibly proves Sir William to have had no hand in the affair, but on the contrary that he behaved to her in a very amiable and praiseworthy manner.—His offering to accommodate matters with her father; his advice for her to leave her course of life, and proposition to see her safe home himself, his expostulation with Mr. Sutton; his exclamation at his refusing her money in her distress, and his giving money himself to have every proper care taken of her, are great and striking proofs of a good, generous, and humane mind, though in some measure, perhaps, hitherto, buried to the world, by the wild sallies of inconsiderate youth.

I shall

I shall now take a general review of some things which have occurred in this affair, and of the depositions made before the jury, and then conclude.

I shall first begin with Mr. Blifs. When captain Holland asked him, after he had examined her wounds, whether she had the venereal disorder? his answer was, that he could not *take upon him* to say she *had*. On the day after she died, as appears by the coroner's letter, Mr. Blifs applied to the coroner for leave to bury her, as a person who had died of the *venereal disease*. Was it not most extraordinary, that Mr. Blifs should now *take upon him* to say, what he could not *take upon him* to say a few days before, although he had *then* inspected her? —But hear what Mr Blifs swore before the coroner, as it appears in the pamphlet written by one of the jurymen. On his being asked if the wounds could, in any wise, occasion her death; he answered “That if she had not had any wounds at all, *probably*, she would have died; for her death was *owing to an inflammatory putrid fever*.” What do you say to this, Mr. Blifs? Did she die of the *venereal disorder*, and an *inflammatory putrid fever* too? I would ask Mr. Blifs another question. Pray if a person had died of the venereal disorder, could it not be perceived by inspecting the body afterwards? I fancy you *will*, because you *must*, answer, yes. Why then it is plain she did *not* die of it, for two of the surgeons, Mr. Wyat and Mr. Farmer, on being asked the question, after their having inspected the body, swear positively they saw *no* appearance or symptoms of it.—I therefore call upon you to inform the public, what could lead you to deceive the coroner; I hope not the old proverb, that it is not *proper* to tell the *truth* at all times. I have not done yet,

fir. By the juryman's pamphlet it appears you *swore* that at Haddock's Bagnio " they asked you to drink, but you *neither eat nor drank* with them; but took your leave : that Sutton and the deceased were put into one bed that night, and dined together the next day at the Cardigan's-head ; and that you did *not* see her *again* till the 11th of September."—Pray *recollect* yourself, Sir. Miss Young says you sat with them two hours, and at the table all the while they were at supper ; and tho' she cannot take upon her to say you *eat* (unless it was *nuts*, and in my notion of things *that is eating*) yet she is confident you *drank*. And indeed it is not reasonable to suppose a man could sit in a Bagnio *two hours* with two young fellows, warm with liquor, without being, as it were, *forced*, by their insisting on it, to drink. Remember too, fir, that you have *sworn* Miss Young was sober, so that there is no apparent cause for her memory's failing her.—Did you not call of them the next morning at the bagnio, *without being sent for*, and prevent their going out of town ? Did you not dine with them afterwards at the Cardigan ? How then, Sir, can you *swear* that you took your leave *at* the bagnio; that Sutton and the deceased were put to bed *at* the bagnio, and dined *together* [that is *they* two, Sutton and the *deceased*, it cannot *well* be taken in *any other* sense] the next day at the Cardigan's Head, and that you *did not see her* till the 11th of September ? Indeed your story is told *so*, that it *may* be understood, you *meant* you was with them ; but in an *oath*, Sir, a man cannot be too explicit ; *why* you were so ambiguous you *must certainly know best*. You swear you were *sent for*, to the bagnio, by Sir William, your patient. The next morning, you know, you went *voluntarily* ; perhaps, *therefore*, you did not chuse to have it known that you went to *such* places, *without being sent for*. ---You swear if she had not had any wounds at all,

probably,

probably, she would have died. *Probably!* what then, sir, you are not positive she would have died otherwise?—No more are many other people.

Mr. John Wyatt, the surgeon, being asked at the coroner's inquest, if he could tell the occasion of her death? answered, *he could form no observation of her death*. And on being asked, if those wounds might not have occasioned a fever? he said, "he *believed* not." — Mr. Wyatt's *believing* they would not, is no *proof* they would not.

Mr. John Farmer, surgeon, being asked if the wounds might not be the occasion of a fever? He said they could *scarcely* occasion a fever, but they *might*.—If there is only a bare possibility that her wounds *might* occasion a fever, surely the perpetrator of them ought to be proceeded against farther.

Mr. Samuel Chapman, the surgeon, swears, that when he first attended the deceased, on Thursday October 2d, he was shewed two wounds, and found a *gangrening*. On Friday, found they were *mortified*, and on Saturday word was sent him she was *dead*. Being asked if he had now inspected the body, and what he thought of the wounds? He said it was his *opinion*, that the wounds were not mortal.—I would ask Mr. Chapman, or any gentleman of the faculty, this plain question; When a part has become *gangrened*, does not the small absorbent vessels imbibe and carry into the blood the noxious matter (which is a subtle poison) that occasioned the *gangrene*? The blood and juices being *therefore* so contaminated, may produce a putrid fever; which, before, might have been only a symptomatic inflammatory, occasioned by the pain of her wounds, and excessive drinking

Dr.

Dr. Talbot Smith swears, "it is his *opinion*, that
"the wounds could be no way relative to her
"death."

I observe the gentlemen in general, very justly,
are diffident in swearing *positively* that the wounds
did not cause her death, or the fever; but give it
only as a matter of *opinion*; in which, I doubt not,
they will admit, they *may* be mistaken. Mr. Bliss
says, *probably* she would have died if she had not
been wounded. Mr. Wyatt says, he *believes* they
could not occasion a fever; and Mr. Farmer can
scarcely think it, but admits they *might*.

It is incumbent on me, before I have done, to
make a few remarks on Mr. Jurymen's *impartial*
inference (as he is pleased to call it) in his pamphlet,
drawn from the depositions made before the coro-
ner.

He admits that Miss Bell received two wounds,
and that she imagined them to be the cause of her
death, "but then, says he, a physician, three sur-
"geons, and an *apothecary*, declare she did not die
"of the wounds. She must therefore, he con-
"tinues, be *mistaken* about the cause of her death;
"and I can see no difficulty in accounting for *that*
"mistake; for it is very *probable* she had no
"thoughts of death till within a few days of the
"period, and then her ignorance might induce
"her to think that as she had been wounded with
"a knife," [Mr. Jurymen admits here it was done
with a knife, though by and by he will be found
to suppose it to have been done with a sword]
"nothing else could be the occasion of that violent
"illness. I said she might think so; but is it not
"full

" full as *probable*, that she did not think at all
 " when she made these declarations?"

It is plain, by this time, to every peruser of what I have written, that Mr. Juryman's *probable* conjectures are all mistaken ones. It is certain she *bad* thoughts of death *long before* the fatal period. She told the maid (as mentioned before) the *very day* she came from the bagnio, that she had received her *death's wound*. And also said to Miss Young, when she was at Mrs. Parker's, that she should *die*, and even in *half an hour*, if not removed from thence. But what does Mr. Juryman mean, by her not thinking at all, when she made her declarations? Does he think she was drunk upon a sick bed; surely no. Or mad? Is there any appearance of her being delirious in her narration to Captain Holland? Did not that gentleman always find her clear in her story, without variation? And did she not talk to him of past occurrences? And if she had been not in her perfect senses, she must certainly have betrayed herself in *such* a conversation.

Mr. Juryman goes on " the gentlemen of the
 " faculty that attended her, say, she was delirious
 " at times; and this is confirmed by her saying *No*,
 " to Mr. Moody's asking her if she knew him;
 " though she had but that instant before been told,
 " that Mr. Moody desired to see her; and she, of
 " course, expected instantly to see him; by desiring
 " him to be admitted."—Let me ask Mr. Juryman, who are those gentlemen of the faculty that said she was delirious? I have carefully read over all the depositions, and find no such thing. Indeed an *Apothecary*, Mr. Bliss, says, the maid told him, that the deceased had declared, Sutton had cut her; that on asking her about it, [this was five days before her death] she sometimes said Sutton, had

had cut her, and sometimes faltered. It is amazing she should *falter* to Mr. Bliss in charging Mr. Sutton, when she had been so *constant* to every other person, in *persisting* it was *he* that did it ! I cannot pretend to say, it is an untruth ; or if it were, can I say it was *spoke knowingly* ; but perhaps he did not rightly *recollect* the circumstance, any more than *that* of *eating* nuts, and *drinking* at the Bagnio. — As to her saying No, to Mr. Moody, neither he, nor Mr. Davis heard her, though both were in the room. Mr. Gyffard might mistake the word ; I know he thinks she said it ; and so she *might*, because being in great pain, and near her death, she perhaps did not properly attend to the question, till repeated. — Even supposing she *was* delirious on *that* day, it does not tend to invalidate one tittle of what she told captain Holland, for the last time he saw her alive, was the day before Messrs. Moody, Gyffard, and Davis, were with her, and *then* she was in her *perfect senses*.

Mr. Juryman says, he is inclined to believe, the wounds were given by a *small sword* rather than a *knife* “ and *that* through wantonness, not naked as “ imagined, but *through all her cloaths*.” Now Mr. Juryman, I am more inclined to think it was given with a knife ; because Miss Young is ready to swear, that Sutton had no sword at the Bagnio, nor did *she* ever see him wear one. As to whether she was naked when wounded ; I cannot tell, but to her being wounded through all her cloaths, I fancy you are again mistaken, Mr. Juryman, for her maid (who though she lived with Miss Bell, never was servant to one of her mistress’s profession before, and who *now* lives in a family of great credit and reputation) will testify on oath that she afterwards searched all the cloaths she had on at the Bagnio, and there was not the least sign of a hole through any
of

of them. The last notice I shall take of this contemptible *impartial* inference of Mr Juryman's, is, where he says, " it is not likely the wounds were " designed to kill, the part wounded being the least " adapted to that purpose."—I fancy the King of Prussia could inform this *sensible* and *impartial* Juryman, that many an Austrian had received his death's wound *behind* as well as *before*.

Some little while after she died, it was publicly said in an advertisement in the Public Ledger, from Mr. Umfreville the Coroner, that she died of a fever, *occasioned by a bad habit of drinking*, and that it appeared so by the evidence of a physician, three surgeons, and an apothecary. Now, I have read with some care *all* their depositions, as published in the Juryman's account, and do *not* find the *least* mention of her fever being *occasioned by a bad habit of drinking*. How this is to be accounted for, I cannot tell!

The maid says she went from home to the Bagnio in perfect health; it therefore, upon the whole, appears to me, that her excessive rioting and drinking at the Bagnio, and at the Cardigan's Head, *when Mr. Blifs was of the party*, threw her into her fever, and that the wounds she received from Mr. Sutton during the intemperate heat of her body, by such a debauch, highly increased her illness, and that her drinking and her wounds were jointly the cause of her death; for is it not reasonable to suppose, that wounds given when the body was inflamed with liquor, would aggravate an illness, notwithstanding the same wounds in a body cool and temperate might have no such ill effect?

I shall conclude with hoping, that justice, in all cases of cruelty, will, sometime or other, overtake the offenders, however screened by wealth and opulence.



HEARTFREE.



London,

London, December, 17, 1760.

LAST night, since the printing off of the foregoing sheets, captain Holland, had the pleasure of receiving a letter (dated the 10th) from an attorney at Aylsham, informing him that " Mr. Bell " is now determined to prosecute the perpetrator of " the savage and brutish treatment his daughter " received, to the utmost of his power," and that this gentleman (the attorney) " will be in town soon " after the holidays, then to take all proper steps " to carry Mr. Bell's intentions into execution."

I was glad to snatch the opportunity, just before this last sheet went to the press, to give the public this early intimation ; in order to exculpate Mr. Bell from any censure that might possibly fall upon him, in consequence of its having been so long delayed, and of the observations made thereon. And I can assure Mr. Bell, he will not only have the praise, and best wishes of all, but the assistance (if needful) of many, friends to justice and humanity.

F I N I S.

